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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7267  
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 2628  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 8721  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 3222  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 3094  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7033

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000478

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN, INR/REA, AND CA/OCS/CI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [CASC](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: GULNORA'S DAUGHTER WINS GYMNASTICS COMPETITION  
UNDER NEW SURNAME

REF: A. TASHKENT 323

[1](#)B. TASHKENT 206

Classified By: AMB. JON R. PURNELL, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D).

[1](#)1. (C) President Karimov's eldest daughter Gulnora Karimova's eight year old daughter Iman won a rhythmic gymnastics competition in Moscow on March 2 under the surname Azizova. Iman, an American citizen, was born in New Jersey on June 17, [1](#)1998. News websites including Press-Uz.info and Tatarlar.ru carried the news of Azizova's victory in the Rhythmic Gymnastics Grand Prix Baby Cup without disclosing her connection to the Karimov family. An anchorwoman with a Tashkent television station told us that Iman Azizova's victory in the "Snowflower" five to eight-year old category featured in the channel's weekend news, and that Iman was in fact Gulnora's daughter. The anchorwoman added that Iman competed in last year's competition under the "Karimova" surname. According to our contact, "TV Markaz" channel also reported Iman Azizova's victory without revealing her full identity. (Note: President Karimov's younger daughter, Lola, is President of the Uzbekistan Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation. End note.)

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: Gulnora's decision to change her daughter's surname could be aimed at insulating her from publicity over the custody battle between her parents or facilitating her international travel (ref A). It is also an Uzbek tradition for grandchildren to assume the first name of their grandparents as a sign of respect and to preserve their memory. President Karimov's father-in-law was Akbar Azizov, whose wife, Vera Tikhonovna Azizova, passed away in late January (ref B).

PURNELL